

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiners Bell and Brier in a personal interview on September 17, 1998. In that interview it was agreed that the obviousness-type double patent rejection is withdrawn in view of the restriction requirement in the parent application. It was further agreed that Applicant will submit a copy of Japanese priority application 159416/90, which has a filing date of June 18, 1990, in the next response to overcome the pending art rejection. Applicant notes that the effective filing date of *Zenda* is September 6, 1990, which is later than June 18, 1990, the filing date of that Japanese priority document. While Applicant believes that the claims are clearly patentable over the art of record, nevertheless *Zenda* is removed as a reference.

Regarding a formal matter, as requested by the Examiner, Applicant resubmits Japanese patent application 50195, 97593 and 117190 (previously submitted in the parent application). The concise explanation of relevance of these non-English documents are provided in an International Search Report, a copy of which is also enclosed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate his consideration of the documents by initialling the attached Form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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